

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 125689

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ITALY: DC PRESENTS ELECTORAL LISTS

IN A MAY 20 SPEECH OUTLINING HIS PARTY'S PROGRAM, DC SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI FIRMLY REJECTED THE PCI DEMAND FOR ENTRY INTO THE NEXT GOVERNMENT. WHILE RULING OUT EVEN "OCCASIONAL" ALLIANCES WITH THE RIGHT-WING MSI, HE CALLED FOR COLLABORATION WITH THE SOCIALISTS AND SMALLER DEMOCRATIC LAY PARTIES IN A GOVERNMENT OF "DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY." EMBASSY ROME NOTES THAT ALTHOUGH THE DC LISTS REFLECT A 25 PERCENT TURNOVER OF PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES:

--THE OLD GUARD REMAINS IN POWER, AND YOUNGER DC EXPONENTS OF A "GENERATIONAL CHANGE" ARE GENERALLY DISILLUSIONED.

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--BICKERING MARKED CANDIDATE SELECTION IN MANY
AREAS OF THE COUNTRY AS THE DC DIRECTORATE IMPOSED
ITS CHOICES OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF LOCAL LEADERS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: HAD THE PARTY CARRIED OUT THE CHANGES
IN ITS LISTS IN A UNITED AND PURPOSEFUL MANNER, AND HAD
A FEW TOP LEADERS TARRED WITH SERIOUS CAMPAIGN CHARGES
BEEN REMOVED, THE DC COULD HAVE MADE "RENEWAL" A
CREDIBLE CAMPAIGN SLOGAN. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 8356,
5/21.

2. SPAIN: OUTLOOK BRIGHTENS FOR PASSAGE OF REFORM BILL

ACCORDING TO A NUMBER OF INFLUENTIAL DEPUTIES, THE GOVERN-
MENT'S REFORM PROGRAM WILL ENJOY MAJORITY SUPPORT IN THE
CORTES, PARTICULARLY SINCE RECENT EVENTS HAVE REDUCED
RIGHT WING POTENTIAL FOR UPSETTING THE PROGRAM. EMBASSY
MADRID NOTES THAT:

--UNDER THE NEW RULES FOR DEBATING "URGENT LEGIS-
LATION," THE CORTES WILL HOLD ITS FIRST PLENARY
SESSION MAY 25 WHEN THE BILL ON FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY
IS REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE.

--SOME CONSERVATIVE DEPUTIES ARE NOT SO MUCH OPPOSED
TO GRADUAL REFORM AS TO THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF
PERMITTING POLITICAL ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF SUCH
PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATIONS AS THE UGT LABOR CONGRESS.

--A WELL-INFORMED SENIOR OFFICIAL IN THE CORTES

BUREAUCRACY FEELS THAT DESPITE THE DISAPPOINTMENT
OF SOME REFORMERS, ARIAS' APRIL 28 SPEECH HAS
SEPARATED HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL FROM THE RIGHT WING.
(CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 397, 5/21.

3. JAPAN: MIKI'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED

AS LDP VICE PRESIDENT SHIINA'S "DUMP MIKI" CAMPAIGN GAINS
MOMENTUM, EMBASSY TOKYO PREDICTS THE PRIME MINISTER IS
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LIKELY TO FALL DURING THE NEXT SIX WEEKS. MIKI:

--HAS DEMONSTRATED AN UNWILLINGNESS TO BOW TO THE
DICTATES OF PARTY ELDERS (E.G., SHIINA) ON THE ANTI-
MONOPOLY BILL, RIGHT TO STRIKE LEGISLATION, AND MOST
IMPORTANTLY, ON EASING OFF ON THE LOCKHEED INVESTI-
GATION; AND

--HAS RECEIVED LITTLE SUPPORT FROM THE PRESS OR
LONGTIME SYMPATHIZERS IN THE OPPOSITION, WHO HAVE

BEEN LOCKED INTO ANTI-MIKI STANCES AS PART OF THEIR
NORMAL PRE-ELECTION STRATEGY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: LOCKHEED HAS HAD AN EXTRAORDINARY
IMPACT HERE. IT DESTROYED THE FUKUDA-TANAKA POWER
STALEMATE, CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR THE PRESENT
GOVERNMENT CRISIS. MIKI'S OUSTER WILL OCCUR WITHOUT
WIDELY CREDIBLE REASON AND THEREFORE AMID POPULAR CRITI-
CISM THAT A LOCKHEED COVER-UP IS INTENDED.
(CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 7603, 5/21. ROBINSON

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